

WASHINGTON, DC—Today, April 21, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) will introduce a House Resolution honoring the life and career of legendary Phillies announcer Harry Kalas, who was a constituent of the 7th Congressional District.

“Harry Kalas will be warmly remembered for his invaluable contributions to our national pastime of baseball, our community, and our nation,” said Congressman Sestak. “Harry gave voice to so many of our dreams on the baseball field. I spent the past 35 years of my life traveling all around the world, and nothing meant home to me as much as the Philadelphia Phillies on a summer afternoon and hearing Harry Kalas declare: ‘This ball is outta here!’ Harry was a veteran, father, husband, and a friend that we’re all proud to know and love.”

Harry Kalas passed away on April 13, 2009. He was born on March 26, 1936, in Naperville, Ill., and graduated from the University of Iowa 1959 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech, Radio, and Television. Immediately following graduation, he served in the United States Army for two years in Hawaii. He joined the Philadelphia Phillies broadcast team in 1971, calling their games for the past 38 years, including 26 years with his great friend and Hall of Famer Richie Ashburn. Harry Kalas called seven National League Championship Series and three World Series, and was the voice of the 2008 World Champion Phillies.

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and accomplishments of Harry Kalas for his invaluable contributions to the national past-time of baseball, the community, and the Nation.

Whereas Harry Kalas, an iconic and beloved sports broadcaster passed away on April 13, 2009;

Whereas Harry Kalas was born on March 26, 1936, in Naperville, Illinois;

Whereas Harry Kalas is a 1959 graduate of the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech, Radio, and Television;

Whereas immediately following graduation, Harry Kalas served in the United States Army for two years in Hawaii;

Whereas following his service, Harry Kalas began his broadcasting career with KGU Radio broadcasting games for the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii Islanders of the AAA Pacific Coast League;

Whereas Harry Kalas was a member of the original Houston Astros broadcast team in 1965;

Whereas Harry Kalas joined the Philadelphia Phillies broadcast team in 1971, calling their games for the past 38 years, including 26 years with his great friend and Hall of Famer Richie Ashburn;

Whereas Harry Kalas had diverse talents, calling University of Houston football, Southwest Conference basketball, Big Five basketball, University of Notre Dame football, and NFL games, throughout his illustrious career as well as providing voice-overs for NFL films and numerous commercials;

Whereas Harry Kalas broadcast the opening of the Astrodome, Veterans Stadium, and Citizen Bank Ballpark;

Whereas, in 2002, Harry Kalas was the Ford C. Frick Award Winner, named after the former National League President

and Major League Baseball Commissioner, which is annually bestowed by the National Baseball Hall of Fame to a broadcaster for “major contributions to baseball”;

Whereas Harry Kalas called 7 National League Championship Series and 3 World Series, being the voice of the 2008 World Champions;

Whereas Harry Kalas called all of Hall of Famer Steve Carlton’s starts as a Phillie, as well as all of Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt’s 548 homeruns, making the phrase, “outta here”, an often imitated but never duplicated signature home run call well known in Philadelphia and the rest of the baseball world;

Whereas Harry Kalas was named Pennsylvania Sportscaster of the year 18 times and was inducted into the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame in 2008;

Whereas Harry Kalas was a remarkable husband to his wife, Eileen, and father to his three sons, Todd, Brad, and Kane;

Whereas his son Todd followed him into field of sports broadcasting; and

Whereas Harry Kalas, not just as a voice, but also as a husband, father, friend, and veteran, will be sorely missed in both the Philadelphia region and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors

the life and accomplishments of Harry Kalas for his in valuable contributions to the national past-time of base ball, our community, and the Nation.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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